

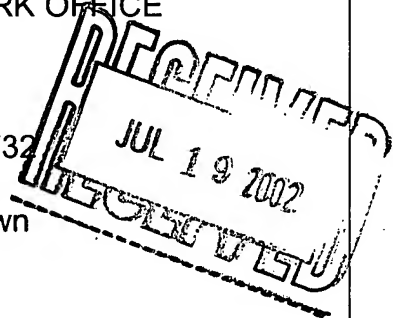
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PATENT
Customer No. 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 5711.0068-02



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
)
Shunji AKASHI) Group Art Unit: 1732
)
Application No.: 10/086,692) Examiner: Unknown
)
Filed: March 4, 2002)
)
For: SNAP FASTENER WITH TAPE,)
AND MANUFACTURING METHOD)
AND MOLD OF THE SAME)



RECEIVED
JUL 18 2002
TC 1700

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), Applicant brings to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO 1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits for the above-referenced application.

Copies of the listed documents were previously submitted in a prior application, application no. 09/404,900, filing date September 24, 1999, upon which Applicant relies for the benefits provided in 35 U.S.C. § 120. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the listed documents and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

In lieu of a statement of relevance or translation of the non-English documents, an English language version of a search report from the European Patent Office in a

corresponding application citing these documents and setting forth the relevance thereof is enclosed.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim in the application and Applicant determines that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicant reserves the right to present to the Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.


Applicant further reserves the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
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Dated: July 17, 2002

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION

Atty. Docket No.	5711.0068-02	Appln. No.	10/086,692
Applicant	Shunji AKASHI		
Filing Date	March 4, 2002	Group:	1732

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initial*	Document Number	Issue Date	Name	Class	Sub Class	Filing Date If Appropriate
	6,199,248	03/13/01	Akashi et al.			
	5,357,659	10/25/94	Ackermann			
	4,805,273	02/21/89	Burke et al.			
	4,805,272	02/21/89	Yamaguchi			
	4,796,339	01/10/89	Burke			
	4,761,863	08/09/88	Sugihara			
	4,728,557	03/01/88	Asano et al.			
	3,890,679	06/24/75	Simon			
	3,800,368	04/02/74	Simon			
	3,551,963	01/05/71	Mosher Jr. et al.			
	2,821,764	02/04/58	Leahy et al.			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
	Document Number	Publication Date	Country	Class	Sub Class	Translation Yes or No
	JP 04 117684	04/17/92	Japan			Abstract
	0228293	07/08/87	EP			

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)	
	European Search Report for EP Application No. 99 10 4017 dated January 16, 2001

Examiner	Date Considered
*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.	
Form PTO 1449	Patent and Trademark Office - U.S. Department of Commerce